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cleavage site may be different than that predicted by computer analysis. Thus, the N-terminal amino acid of the cleaved peptide is expected to be within about five amino acids on either side of the predicted cleavage site. The signal peptide is followed by a 293 amino acid extracellular domain, a 21 amino acid transmembrane domain, and a 525 amino acid cytoplasmic tail. Soluble IL-17R comprises the signal peptide and the extracellular domain (residues 1 to 320 of SEQ ID NO:3) or a fragment thereof. Alternatively, a different signal peptide can be substituted for the native signal peptide.

Please replace the paragraph at page 16 beginning at line 13 with the following:

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The present invention provides methods of using therapeutic compositions comprising an effective amount of a protein and a suitable diluent and carrier. The use of IL-17R or homologs in conjunction with soluble cytokine receptors or cytokines, or other immunoregulatory molecules is also contemplated. Such molecules can be administered separately, sequentially or simultaneously with IL-17R compositions. Particularly preferred immunoregulatory molecules are soluble IL-1 receptors, soluble TNF receptors, and fusion proteins thereof.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 13 and 14 as follows:

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13. (Amended) A method of treating a mammal afflicted with ulcerative colitis, the method comprising administering to said animal an effective amount of a soluble Interleukin-17 Receptor (IL-17R) protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

14. (Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the soluble IL-17R protein is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a protein comprising amino acids 1 through 322 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a protein comprising amino acids 1 through 320 of SEQ ID NO:4;
- (c) a protein having an amino acid sequence that is at least about 70% identical to the amino acid sequences of the proteins of (a) or (b) that binds IL-17; and